

EAST COAST SUPER HORNET PRESS PACK



*Photo by Frank Steinkohl
Graphic Design by Patrick Fernandes*

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team



Lieutenant Ryan Fulwider, a native of Neshanic Station, NJ, graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Engineering and was commissioned in May 2000. In October 2002 he was designated a Naval Aviator after completing Advanced Jet Training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, TX. He then received orders to report to the Navy Super Hornet Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), Strike Fighter Squadron 122 (VFA-122), at NAS Lemoore, CA, where he completed training in June 2003.

LT Fulwider's first operational assignment was a three and a half year tour flying F/A-18Fs with the world famous VFA-2 "Bounty Hunters." As a Super Hornet pilot, he participated in two deployments to the Southern and Western Pacific aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), in support of multiple international Naval and Air Force exercises to include Exercise Cope Tiger and Tsunami Humanitarian Relief operations off the coast of Indonesia.

LT Fulwider is currently an Instructor Pilot assigned to the VFA-106 "Gladiators" at NAS Oceana, VA, and is a member of the East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team.

LT Fulwider has accumulated over 1400 total flight hours, including over 1150 Super Hornet hours and more than 290 carrier arrested landings.



Lieutenant Joe Pommerer, a native of New England, North Dakota, graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a degree in Systems Engineering and was commissioned in May 2000. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in January 2002 and completed F-14 Fleet Replacement (FRS) training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, Virginia, with Fighter Squadron 101 (VF-101) in March 2003.

LT Pommerer's first operational assignment was a three year tour with the VF-31 "Tomcatters." As a Tomcat Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) on board the USS Stennis (CV-74), he participated in the final Tomcat WESTPAC and multiple joint exercises in the Pacific Ocean. Returning from this cruise, VF-31 was reassigned to the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). While completing his second cruise, LT Pommerer participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the final deployment of the Tomcat.

LT Pommerer is currently an Instructor Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) assigned to the VFA-106 "Gladiators" and is a member of the East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team.

LT Pommerer has accumulated over 1400 flight hours and 245 carrier arrested landings.

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team



Lieutenant James Guimond was raised in Westborough, MA and graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1998 with a B.S. in Marine Science. He attended the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL and was commissioned in March 2000. He was designated a Naval Aviator in August 2002 at NAS Meridian, MS and was ordered to NAS Oceana, VA to complete F/A-18 Fleet Replacement (FRS) training at Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA-106).

LT Guimond's first operational assignment was a three year tour with the "Wildcats" of VFA-131. As an F/A-18C Hornet Pilot he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving aboard the USS George Washington (CVN-73) and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).

LT Guimond is currently qualified in the F/A-18 Hornet & Super Hornet and is an Instructor Pilot assigned to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 and is a member of the East Coast Super Hornet Demonstration Team.

LT Guimond has accumulated over 1400 flight hours and over 250 carrier arrested landings.



Lieutenant Adam Drayton, born in England but raised in Chippewa Falls, WI graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a degree in Ocean Engineering and was commissioned in May 2000. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in January 2002 and completed F-14 Fleet Replacement (FRS) training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, Virginia, with Fighter Squadron 101 (VF-101) in December 2003.

LT Drayton's first operational assignment was a three year tour with the VF-2 "Bounty Hunters". As a Tomcat Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) on board USS Constellation (CV-64), he participated in Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom. Returning from this cruise, VF-2 transitioned to the F/A-18F Super Hornet and became Strike Fighter Squadron 2 (VFA-2) based out of NAS Lemoore, California. Deploying for a second time on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), he flew with Air Forces around the world in Exercise Cope Tiger as well as participating in Tsunami Humanitarian Relief operations off the coast of Indonesia.

LT Drayton is currently an Instructor Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) assigned to the VFA-106 "Gladiators" and is a member of the East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team.

LT Drayton has accumulated over 1300 total flight hours, including over 1000 Super Hornet hours and more than 200 carrier arrested landings.

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team



Lieutenant Page Felini, a native of West Chester, OH, graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Civil Engineering and was commissioned in May 2000. In October 2002, she was designated a Naval Aviator after completing Advanced Jet Training at Naval Air Station Meridian, MS and reported to the Fleet Replacement Squadron, VFA-122, at NAS Lemoore, CA. She carrier qualified in the F/A-18F aboard the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) in August 2003 and reported to the fleet.

LT Felini's first operational assignment was a three year tour with VFA-41, the world famous "Black Aces", in Lemoore, CA. She deployed twice aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and participated in the 2004 Cope Thunder and the 2006 Northern Edge exercises.

LT Felini is currently an Instructor Pilot assigned to the Fleet Replacement Squadron, VFA-106, at NAS Oceana, VA and is a member of the 2008 East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team.

LT Felini has accumulated over 1400 flight hours, including over 1200 in the F/A-18 Super Hornet, has been designated a Landing Signal Officer, and has over 250 arrested landings.



Lieutenant Patrick Fernandes was raised in Brockton, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Navy August 1988 attaining the rank of First Class Petty before going to Officer Candidate School (OCS) under the Seamen to Admiral Program and was commissioned in June 1998. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in September 1999 and completed S-3B Fleet Replacement (FRS) training at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, San Diego with the "Shamrocks" of VS-41 in January 2000.

LT Fernandes' first operational assignment was a three year tour with the "Red Griffins" of VS-38. As a Naval Flight Officer (NFO), he completed two deployments onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64); participated in Operations Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returning from his second deployment, he transferred to the "Eagles" of VFA-122 the West Coast Super Hornet FRS to begin the transition to the F/A-18F. LT Fernandes deployed again for a second sea tour with the "Diamondbacks" of VFA-102 stationed in Atsugi, Japan. He deployed with VFA-102 onboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63); he completed the equivalent of two deployments and participated in Exercise Valiant Shield, Foal Eagle, Talisman Saber and Orange Crush.

LT Fernandes is currently an Instructor Weapons Systems Officer (IWSO) assigned to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 and is a member of the East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team.

LT Fernandes has accumulated over 2,500 flight hours and over 700 carrier arrested landings.

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

The East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team



We are the "Gladiators" of VFA-106.
Established on 27 April 1984 and designated
safe for flight for the Super Hornet – called
the "Rhino" by those who fly and maintain it
– on 1 October 2004, VFA-106 is the East
Coast Fleet Replacement Squadron for the
F/A-18E/F.

photograph by Steven Lewis

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

The East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

The primary mission of the Fleet Replacement Squadron is to train newly designated aviators, as well as transition aircrew from the older F-14 to the state-of-the-art F/A-18E/F.

The East Coast Rhino Demo Team is made up of actual FRS instructors flying the same jets we use to train new students. Our mission is to enhance Navy recruiting and demonstrate the awesome capabilities of Naval Aviation and its aircraft.

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

The Tailhook Legacy Flight



The Tailhook Legacy Flight program matches today's frontline fighters with their predecessors in close flight maneuvers at air shows nationwide. F/A-18F "Rhinos" fly on the wing of World War II, Korean, and Vietnam era fighters.

photograph by Steven Lewis

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

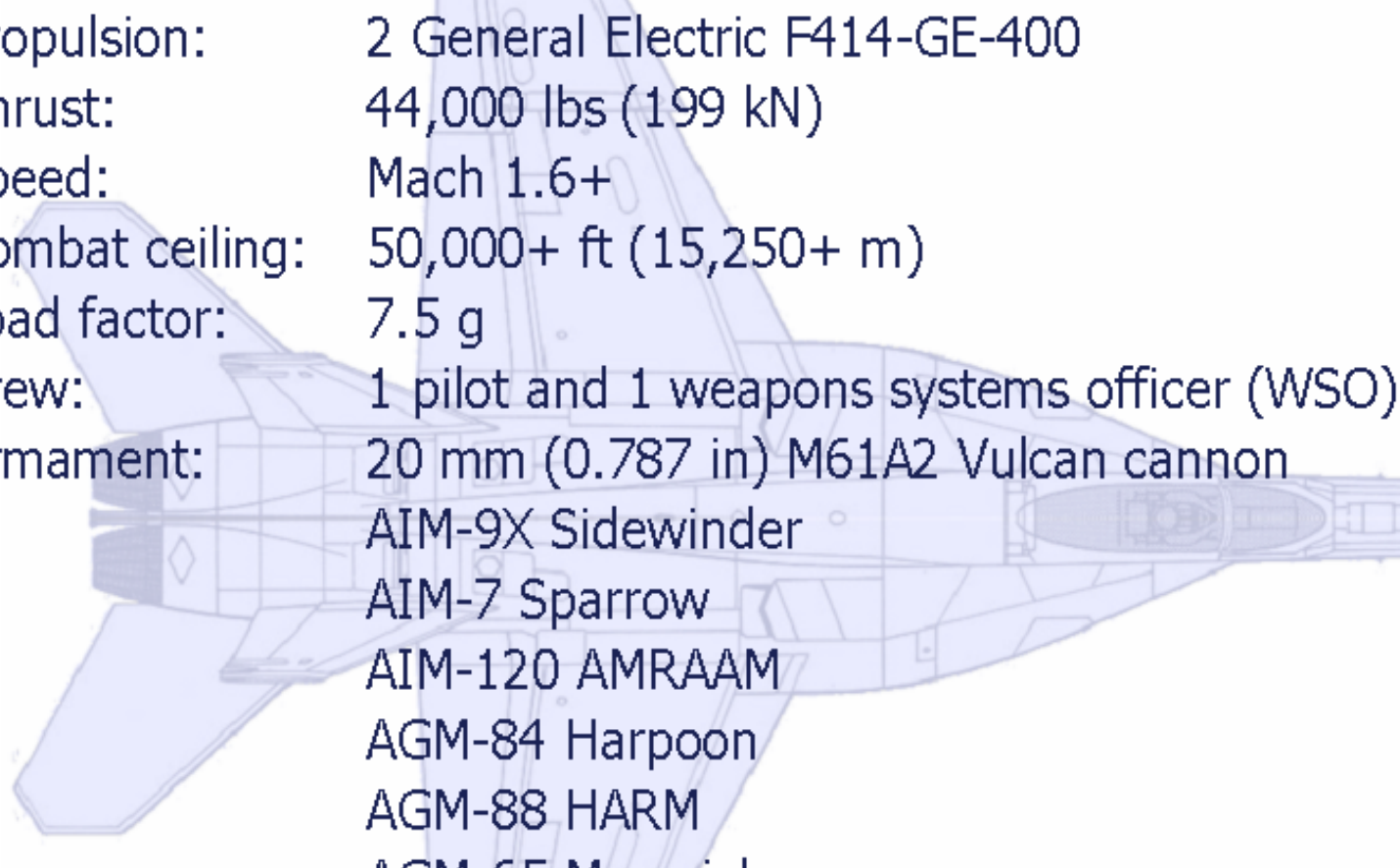
The F/A-18F "Rhino"



The F/A-18F is a combat-proven, 5th generation strike fighter which spans the tactical mission spectrum from long range sea-based air dominance to "through the weather" deep strike interdiction.

East Coast Super Hornet Demo Team

The F/A-18F "Rhino"



Propulsion: 2 General Electric F414-GE-400
Thrust: 44,000 lbs (199 kN)
Speed: Mach 1.6+
Combat ceiling: 50,000+ ft (15,250+ m)
Load factor: 7.5 g
Crew: 1 pilot and 1 weapons systems officer (WSO)
Armament: 20 mm (0.787 in) M61A2 Vulcan cannon
AIM-9X Sidewinder
AIM-7 Sparrow
AIM-120 AMRAAM
AGM-84 Harpoon
AGM-88 HARM
AGM-65 Maverick
JSOW Joint Stand-off Weapon
JDAM Joint Direct Attack Munition
MK-20 Rockeye
General purpose and laser-guided bombs